In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 15 – 17 and Claims 24 – 28.

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1. (Previously Presented) A book binding apparatus for binding a stack of sheets, said apparatus comprising:

a first cover element including

a first cover section having dimensions that generally correspond to dimensions of the sheets, with said first cover section being disposed substantially exclusively in a single plane;

a first section of pressure sensitive adhesive disposed along a free first edge of the first cover section;

a first release liner disposed over the first section of pressure sensitive adhesive;

a flap member attached to the first cover section and pivotable at a first location along the first cover section, with the first location being displaced from the first edge of the first cover section, with said flap member extending substantially along a full length the first edge of the first cover section and with at least a portion of the first section of pressure sensitive adhesive being disposed intermediate the first location and the first edge;

a second section of pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on a surface of said flap member; and

a second release liner disposed over said second section of pressure sensitive adhesive, with said flap member being movable between a closed position where the first release liner can contact said second release liner and an open position where the flap member is positioned away from said first release liner.

2. (Previously Presented) The book binding apparatus of Claim 1 further including:

a second cover element comprising

a second cover section having dimensions that generally correspond to dimensions of the sheets, with said second cover section being disposed substantially exclusively in a single plane; and

an elongated spine element having a longitudinal first edge attached to an edge of the second cover section and a free longitudinal second edge to be secured by the first section of pressure sensitive adhesive of the first cover section, with the spine element including a substrate and an adhesive matrix of heat activated adhesive disposed on the substrate.

3. (Original) The book binding apparatus of Claim 2 wherein the adhesive matrix defines a multiplicity of spaced apart longitudinal grooves that facilitate folding of the spine element.

4. (Presently Amended) A method of binding a stack of sheets comprising;

providing a first cover element which includes a first cover section and an elongated spine element having a first longitudinal edge attached to an edge of the first cover section and a free second longitudinal edge, with the spine element including a ~~temperature~~ heat activated adhesive matrix;

providing a second cover element which includes a second cover section and a flap member attached to the second cover section, with the flap member being movable between an open and a closed position;

positioning the stack of sheets intermediate the first and second cover sections;

folding the spine element around an edge of the stack of sheets so that the adhesive matrix is facing an edge of the stack of sheets;

subsequent to the folding, securing the spine element to the second cover section, with the second longitudinal edge being disposed intermediate the second cover section and the flap member; and

subsequent to said folding, applying heat to the spine element so that molten heat activated adhesive contacts the edge of the stack.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the securing is carried out using pressure sensitive adhesive.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein the second cover element includes a first segment of pressure activated adhesive covered by a first release liner, with at least a portion of the first segment of pressure activated adhesive being disposed intermediate the second cover section and the flap member when the flap member is in the closed position and wherein the method further includes removing the first release liner and the securing includes pressing the spine element and the first segment of pressure activated adhesive together.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6 wherein the securing further includes moving the flap member to the closed position so as to cover at least a portion of the spine element.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7 wherein a second segment of pressure sensitive adhesive is disposed on an inner surface of the flap member intermediate the second cover section and the flap member when the flap member is in the closed position and wherein the moving of the flap member to the closed position causes the flap member to be secured to the at least a portion of the spine element.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein a second release liner is disposed over the second segment of pressure sensitive adhesive and wherein, prior to the moving the flap member to the closed position, removing the second release liner so as to expose the second segment of the pressure sensitive adhesive.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4 further including:

subsequent to the applying heat, permitting the molten heat activated adhesive to cool so as to produce a bound stack;

providing a hardcover assembly including first and second relatively rigid hardcover sections separated by a spine segment, with the first hardcover section including a first pressure sensitive adhesive layer;

exposing only a first portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer to produce an exposed first portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer;

positioning the bound stack and the first hardcover section so that the bound stack and the exposed first portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer come into contact with one another;

exposing a second portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer; and

bringing the bound stack and the second portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer into contact with one another.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10 wherein the second hardcover section of the hardcover assembly further includes a second pressure sensitive adhesive layer and wherein the method further includes:

exposing only a first portion of the second pressure sensitive adhesive layer so as to produce an exposed first portion of the second pressure sensitive adhesive layer;

positioning the bound stack and the second hardcover section so that the bound stack and the exposed first portion of the second pressure sensitive adhesive layer come into contact with one another;

exposing a second portion of the second pressure sensitive adhesive layer; and

bringing the bound stack and the second portion of the second pressure sensitive adhesive layer into contact with one another.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Presently Amended) A method of binding a stack of sheets including:

providing a first cover element which includes a first cover section and an elongated spine element having a first longitudinal edge attached to an edge of the first cover section, with the spine element including a ~~temperature~~ heat activated adhesive matrix;

providing a second cover element which includes a second cover section;

positioning the stack of sheets intermediate the first and second cover sections;

folding the spine element around an edge of the stack of sheets so that the adhesive matrix is facing an edge of the stack of sheets;

subsequent to the folding, securing the spine element to the second cover section using pressure sensitive adhesive;

subsequent to the folding, applying heat to the spine element so that molten heat activated adhesive contacts the edge of the stack;

subsequent to the applying heat, permitting the molten heat activated adhesive to cool so as to produce a bound stack;

providing a hardcover assembly including first and second relatively rigid hardcover sections connected by an intermediate spine segment, with the first hardcover section including a covered first pressure sensitive adhesive layer;

exposing only a first portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer;

positioning the bound stack and the first hardcover section so that the bound stack and the exposed first portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer come into contact with one another;

exposing a second portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer; and

bringing the bound stack and the second portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer into contact with one another.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13 wherein the second hardcover section of the hardcover assembly further includes a covered second pressure sensitive adhesive layer and wherein the method further includes:

exposing the second pressure sensitive adhesive layer; and

positioning the bound stack and the second hardcover section so that the bound stack and the exposed second pressure sensitive adhesive layer come into contact with one another.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Presently Amended) A method of binding a stack of sheets comprising:

providing a first cover element that includes a first cover section having dimensions that generally correspond to dimensions of the sheets and an elongated spine element having a longitudinal first edge attached to a first edge of the first cover section, with the spine element including a substrate and an adhesive matrix of heat activated adhesive disposed on the substrate ~~and~~ ;

providing a second cover element which includes a second cover section;

positioning the first cover element and the stack of sheets such that the first cover section is disposed adjacent a first side of the stack of sheets;

positioning the second cover element relative to the stack of sheets so that the second cover section is disposed adjacent a second side of the stack of sheets;

folding the spine element around an edge of the stack of sheets so that the adhesive matrix is facing the edge of the stack;

subsequent to the folding, securing a second longitudinal edge of the spine element, opposite the first longitudinal edge, to the second cover section;

subsequent to the folding, applying heat to the spine element so that molten heat activated adhesive contacts the edge of the stack;

cooling the heat activated adhesive so as to provide a bound stack;

providing a hardcover assembly including first and second relatively rigid hardcover sections connected by an intermediate spine segment, with the first hardcover section including a first pressure sensitive adhesive layer;

exposing only a first portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer;

positioning the bound stack and the first hardcover section so that the bound stack comes in contact with the exposed first portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer;

exposing a second portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer; and

bringing the bound stack and the second portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer into contact with one another.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the securing is carried out using a pressure sensitive adhesive.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20 wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive is disposed on the first cover element.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 19 wherein the second cover element includes a pressure sensitive adhesive and a release liner disposed over the pressure sensitive adhesive and wherein the securing includes removing the release liner and forcing the second longitudinal edge of the spine element and the pressure sensitive adhesive into contact with one another.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)